

City of Sedona
Department of Public Works – City Maintenance Division
Invasive Plant and Weed Public Information Site

Over the years, numerous non-native plants have become established in the local ecosystems of our area. This site offers general information on invasive plant species of concern within the Sedona area. Links to local, and national, organizations dedicated to enhancing public awareness are provided. The City of Sedona solicits public input regarding the identification and control, of invasive plants and weeds. Contact information is provided at the end of this page.

Information can be obtained from the following sites for information regarding invasive plants and weeds in Arizona:

1. The Arizona Wildland Invasive Plants Working Group main website:
<http://sbsc.wr.usgs.gov/> and search for “Arizona Wildland Invasive Plants Working Group”
2. Invasive Non-Native Plants That Threaten Wildlands In Arizona PDF file:
<http://sbsc.wr.usgs.gov/research/projects/swepic/SWVMA/InvasiveNon-NativePlantsThatThreatenWildlandsInArizona.pdf>
3. National Forest Service/Coconino National Forest Invasive Plant Specialist. Laura Moser: lmoser@fs.fed.us

BUFFELGRASS



Buffelgrass is one species that has recently come to the forefront as a particularly hard to control noxious weed. Native to Africa, it was introduced into the U.S. in the 1930's as livestock forage and for erosion control. Over the years it has proliferated to the point that it is rare to not see it in the southern half of Arizona. Buffelgrass prefers sandy soils, and arid climates below an elevation of 3000 ft. The main issues with the plant is, if allowed to grow unchecked, it can rapidly cover large areas resulting in suppression of desirable plants and it creates a potential grass fire hazard.

Even though Sedona is on the northern boundary of the Buffelgrass range, and above the desired elevation, small isolated areas of Buffelgrass plants have been found within the Sedona city limits. The City Maintenance staff has identified ten individual plants at Jordon Park, and also a 250 sq.ft. area along Jordon Road that contains Buffelgrass plants. Small areas like these are easy to control with spot treatments of Roundup and/or manually removing, bagging, and disposing of individual plants. Staff has been directed to scout for Buffelgrass on a continuous basis throughout the city and to take action as required.

Information pertaining to Buffelgrass can be obtained from the following sites:

1. Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center. Comprehensive site with information on identification, history, and controls: www.buffelgrass.org
2. University of Arizona. Travis M. Bean. Principal Research Specialist. School of Natural Resources and the Environment: bean@email.arizona.edu
<http://snr.arizona.edu/people/bean>
3. Buffelgrass video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQtIVzSrqZY>
4. Buffelgrass photo: <http://picasaweb.google.com/105809773787215593003/20100806#>

ONION WEED



Onion Weed is another invasive noxious weed that has become a concern in the Sedona area. This is another species native to Africa and the Mediterranean/Western European regions that has recently spread to Australia and North America. It is not a true onion, but the leaves are very similar in appearance to the onion. Onion Weed does not invade well-established lawns, but is an issue in newly disturbed construction areas or roadside right-of-ways. If allowed to prosper it produces large amounts of seeds and can out compete desirable plant species.

Over the past few years the City of Sedona has been working in conjunction with Ernie Storm of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Protection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) department to identify and control Onion Weed infestations in the Sedona area. Manual removal of individual plants and/or applications of Roundup herbicide are the preferred methods of control.

Information pertaining to Onion Weed can be obtained from the following sites:

1. Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules of the U.S.
<http://www.lucidcentral.org/keys/FNW/FNW%20seeds/html/fact%20sheets/Asphodelus%20fistulosus.htm>
2. Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Invasive.org
<http://www.invasive.org/browse/subject.cfm?sub=4645>
3. Department of Agriculture and Food: http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_93103.html?s=1001
4. USDA APHIS PPQ - Ernie Storm: ernest.l.storm@aphis.usda.gov

The City of Sedona is dedicated to the protection of our environment and the preservation of our native areas. We welcome public input and solicit the help of the community in these efforts. For questions, or to report concerns regarding sightings of any invasive species, please contact:

Peter J. Hill CGCSR, OPMQP, CPSI
City Maintenance Supervisor
City of Sedona Public Works Department
City Maintenance Division
928-203-5063
928-203-5057

pjh121510